

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants have amended claim to be in independent form by including therein all of the limitations of claim 1, from which claim 10 previously depended. Accordingly, applicants have canceled claim 1 and amended claims 2 - 4, 6 - 8 and 13 to depend from claim 10. Applicants have also amended claim 14 to recite "means for fractionating the used absorbent, arranged upstream of the means for mixing, into at least two fractions, some of said two fractions being rich in catalyst, the others being poor in catalyst. This device limitation corresponds to the process limitation of original claim 10. Applicants have also added claim 20, reciting that the means for fractionating the used absorbent comprises a cyclone. See, the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of applicants' specification. Applicants have also amended claims 14 - 19 to eliminate the reference numerals therefrom.

Applicants request entry of this amendment under 37 CFR 1.116. Initially, it is submitted the amendments place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth hereinafter or, at least, in better form for consideration on appeal. Moreover, it is submitted rewriting claim 10 in independent form, canceling claim 1 and amending the dependencies of claims 2 - 4, 6 - 8 and 13 clearly do not raise new issues. With respect to the amendments to claim 14, it is submitted these amendments do not raise new issues since the Examiner has previously considered (in connection with claim 10) a process limitation corresponding to the limitation added to claim 14. While applicants have added a new claim (claim 20), applicants have also canceled a corresponding number of rejected claims, i.e., claim 1. Accordingly, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is proper.

In view of the rewriting of claim 10 in independent form, the cancellation of claim 1 and the change in dependency of claims 2 - 4, 6 - 8 and 13, all of claims 2 - 9

and 11 - 13 ultimately depend from claim 10. It is noted the Examiner has objected to claim 10, but indicated this claim to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted the rejections in the outstanding office action, at least as they apply to claims 2 - 9 and 13, are moot.

Applicants traverse the rejections in the outstanding office action, at least as they apply to claims 14 - 20, for the reasons set forth on pages 6 - 9 of the amendment filed April 23, 2004, which reasons are incorporated herein by reference. In addition, it is submitted neither the Martin et al patent nor the Canadian patent to Longo et al, or even the combination thereof, discloses or would have suggested the device for regeneration of a used absorbent set forth in claims 14 - 20, including means for fractionating the used absorbent, arranged upstream of the means for mixing, into at least two fractions, some of said fractions being rich in catalyst, the others being poor in catalyst. Accordingly, claims 14 - 20 are patentable at least for this additional reason.

Applicants note the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10 - 12. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted all of the claims now in the application are in condition for allowance.

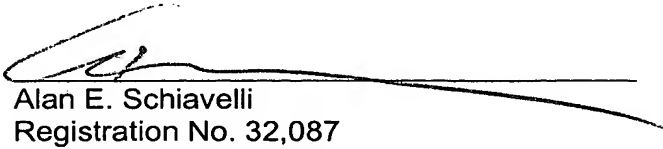
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now in the application are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli,

Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 612.41094X00),
and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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